April/May/June 1996 Volume 21, Number 2

A summary of recent news stories from the University of California San Francisco

UCSF

To Our Neighbors

Kids use computer games to overcome language disabilities

Researchers at UCSF and Rutgers University have developed an innovative therapy using vivid computer games to help children overcome language-learning disorders.

Results from the first few experiments with a small group of children, who were born without the ability to process human speech accurately, show that in a month of training with the animated computer games that use funny sounds, silly characters, colorful backgrounds, point-scoring, and prizes to engage learning-disabled children, almost all of them achieved completely normal speech comprehension.

These studies may yield the first truly effective treatments for language-learning disabilities that affect as many as 7 million children in the US and cost society in excess of $7.5 billion annually, the researchers say. The use of computer-modified speech and interactive computer training games also might be applicable in retraining adults who have difficulty with language as a result of brain injury from stroke or head trauma, and the technique might even be useful for learning foreign languages.

The research collaboration is led by neurophysiologist Michael Merzenich, PhD, Francis A. Sooy, professor of Otolaryngology and a research scientist with the W. M. Keck Center for Integrative Neuroscience at UCSF, and by Rutgers' neuropsychologist Paula Tallal, PhD. Keck Center researchers, led by William Jenkins, PhD, designed the computer games. The Charles A. Dana Foundation is financing the research.

LPPI offers help for eating disorders

UCSF's Langley Porter Psychiatric Institute is recruiting people with eating disorders, such as anorexia and bulimia, to join an outpatient long-term psychotherapy group.

People with bulimia nervosa, the most frequent eating disorder, go on eating binges followed by purges — such as self-induced vomiting and laxative abuse — to keep their weight down. The bulimic person has a preoccupying pathological fear of becoming overweight, is aware that the eating pattern is abnormal and frequently experiences feelings of self-recrimination.

Patients with anorexia nervosa don't lose their appetite, but rather refuse to eat or alter their eating patterns due to emotional states such as anxiety, irritation, anger or fear. Anorexic patients are obsessed with being thin and often starve themselves to dangerous levels despite becoming skeletally slim.

Not surprisingly, considering America's cultural equation of thinness with beauty, eating disorders are 10 times more common among women.

Elaine Lonergan, PhD, coordinator of the outpatient group therapy program at LPPI, says "the treatment of choice" is a combination of cognitive behavioral work that tries to get patients to establish healthy eating habits, and psychotherapy, which helps them identify, understand and deal with the underlying reasons for their eating disorders. In some cases, medication is prescribed. Most patients should allow for at least a year in psychotherapy to achieve results, she says. For more information, call 476-7442

UCSF announces long-range plan

UCSF's Draft 1996 Long Range Development Plan (LRDP), which will guide the physical development of UCSF over the next 15-plus years, has just been completed and is available for review. The objective of the LRDP is to meet current and future space needs while consolidating, where possible, academic and administrative units currently scattered around San Francisco. UCSF's future needs, according to the plan, require an additional 3.3 million gross square feet (gsf) — 65 percent more than the 5 million (gsf) it currently occupies at sites throughout the city.

One of the strategies to meet the space needs is to renovate or replace aging and obsolete buildings at the Parnassus campus. The second strategy will be to acquire in the next 15 years sufficient land to build a new major campus site to provide approximately 2.65 million gsf. The LRDP identifies three possible sites: Brisbane Baylands-Executive Park, located in Brisbane and San Francisco; Harbor Bay Business Park in Alameda; and Mission Bay in San Francisco.

The process to prepare and complete an LRDP began more than four years ago. The Community Advisory Group, made up of neighborhood, labor, ethnic and business leaders, worked with UCSF faculty and staff to create a statement of joint goals and objectives that is incorporated in the LRDP. UCSF is holding a series of informational meetings at six locations in the community in April and May to discuss the LRDP. See the What's Happening calendar for meeting details. For copies of the LRDP, call 476-3206.

Herpes linked to KS tumors

A viral culprit suspected of being responsible for the disfiguring and potentially deadly tumors that affect many persons with AIDS is now in hand. UCSF researchers led by Don Ganem, MD, discovered a herpes virus that is implicated in the development of Kaposi's sarcoma (KS), a stigmatizing cancer in which blood vessel cells grow out of control, usually on the skin, where they form oval-shaped reddish purple lesions. The UCSF scientists are the first to reproduce the virus successfully in the laboratory and to photograph it. Now they will begin to test anti-viral drugs in infected cells and look for weaknesses in the virus' life cycle.

In Brief

Prop. 203 would give UCSF $19 million

California voters will be asked on the March 26 primary ballot to approve Proposition 203, a $3 billion bond issue for construction and renovation of the state's public schools, community colleges and universities.This is the first time that higher education has joined with K-12 schools in a joint bond measure campaign. Two-thirds of the money ($2.03 billion) would be earmarked for construction projects at public elementary and secondary schools. The remainder ($975 million) would be provided for community colleges and universities.The University of California would receive about a third of the share allocated for higher education to pay for seismic safety improvements, essential infrastructure upgrade and replacement, and critical fire and life safety improvements.

Two-drug treatment combats AIDS-related blindness

A combination of two antiviral drugs, foscarnet and ganciclovir, is more effective than either drug alone for controlling recurrence of a blinding eye infection — cytomegalovirus (CMV) retinitis — common in people with AIDS, according to a national study reported recently in two journals. UCSF took part in the national trial that was part of an ongoing clinical research project funded by the National Eye Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health.

Center on Aging hosts two free programs

The UCSF/Mount Zion Center on Aging is offering two free Saturday programs in May and June as part of its Community Health Education Series. The first half-day session on May 11 — "Healthy Aging: Take Charge!" — will explore what individuals can do to influence how they age and maintain good health, from diet and exercise to getting the most from a doctor's visit. The second half-day program on June 8 — "Breast Health for Older Women" — will examine rising risk factors after age 40, breast screening, breast self-exams and mammography, and the latest information on the relationship between hormone replacement therapy and breast cancer, as well as breast cancer diagnosis, treatment and research. Ample time will be allowed for questions and discussion. Both programs will be held in the auditorium of the UCSF Laurel Heights Conference Center, 3333 California St., from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Registration is requested as seating is limited. For more information, call 750-5342.

Lung health is focus of day-long health fair

Approximately 300,000 people die each year from lung diseases ranging from emphysema to lung cancer. To help the public understand the threat posed by such diseases, UCSF will hold a Bay Area Lung Health Day, Saturday, May 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at UCSF/Mount Zion. Informational booths on everything from asthma to how to stop smoking will be available, together with lectures and screening tests — including one to measure lung capacity. For more information, call 885-3882.

More news for you

on the back page

What's happening

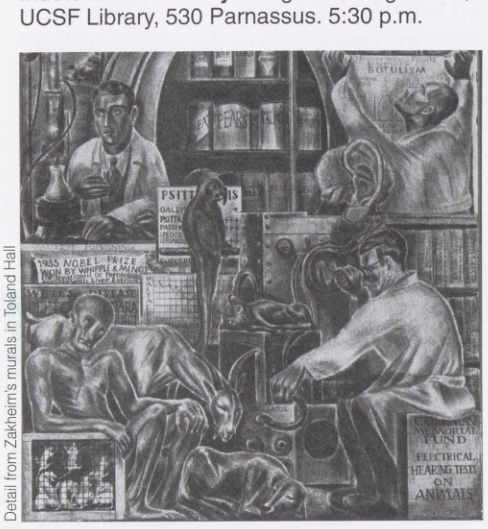
To Our Neighbors
April/May/June 1
A quarterly calen
events at UC San

Special Events

Sponsored by Millberry Arts & Performances, unless otherwise noted. Call 476-6761.

Tues., April 2
Toward Gene Therapy: A Future Approach to Gaucher Disease PLUS **Humor, Creativity & Chronic Illness.** Sponsored by UCSF Gaucher Disease Referral Center. Millberry Conf. Center, 500 Parnassus. 6:30-9 p.m. Call 800-901-9997.

Wed., April 10
Music in the Library. Lange Reading Room, UCSF Library, 530 Parnassus. 5:30 p.m.



Detail from Zakheim's murals in Toland Hall

Wed., April 10
Celebrating Bernard Baruch Zakheim. Artist's daughter discusses his murals and hosts a reception honoring the 100th anniversary of his birth. Sponsored by Public Service Programs. Toland Hall, 533 Parnassus. 7 p.m.

Sun., April 21
Grand Celebration Goes Downtown. Piano recital features UCSF pianists. $3. R. Kassman Pianos, 131 Franklin St. 4 p.m. Followed by reception.

Sun., May 5
UCSF Orchestra Concert. Benefit for Landberg Center for Health & Ministry features works by Bloch and Saint-Saens with Mark Motycka, cellist. Co-sponsored by Chancellor's Endowment Fund. $10. Calvary Presbyterian Church, 2515 Fillmore St. 7 p.m.

Fri., May 10
UCSF Vocal Chords Concert. All-student a cappella choir performs. Co-sponsored by Chancellor's Endowment Fund. $3. Millberry Conf. Center, 500 Parnassus. 8 p.m.

Tues. & Wed., May 14 & 15
Sixth Annual Student Art Show. Co-sponsored by Graduate Student Assn. Millberry Conf. Center, 500 Parnassus. Noon-6 p.m. Reception: May 14 at 4 p.m.

Thurs., May 16
Spring Dance Concert: ODC/San Francisco. Dance troupe celebrates their 25th anniversary season. Co-sponsored by Millberry Fitness Center. Millberry Gym, 500 Parnassus. 6 p.m.

Sat., May 18
Lung Health Day. (See story on front page.)

Thurs., June 6
EMPACT!'s 8th Annual Raffle Drawing. Call 476-2675 for tickets. Saunders Court, enter through 513 Parnassus. 12:30 p.m.

Cinco de Mayo Celebration

Wed., May 1
Violence & Health: Responding to an Emergency Call. Looking at violence as a public health epidemic. Sponsored by Public Service Programs. Room 300, Health Sciences West, enter through 513 Parnassus. Noon. Call 476-4394.

Thurs., May 2
"I, Worst of All/Yo, La Peo De Todas." Film about a17th-century Mexican nun and poet whose spirit eventually was broken by the Catholic Church. Co-sponsored by Women's Resource Center and Latin American Campus Assn. Room 300, Health Sciences West, enter through 513 Parnassus. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. or 5:30-7:30 p.m. Call 476-5222.

Asian Pacific Awareness Week

UCSF celebrates Asian Pacific Awareness Week with the following events sponsored by the Asian Pacific Celebration Committee and those noted below. Call 476-2675 for a complete schedule and locations.

Tues., May 14
"American Sons." Film explores how racism shapes the lives of Asian Americans. Co-sponsored by Women's Resource Center and the Office of Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity. Toland Hall, 533 Parnassus. Noon-1:30 p.m. or 5:30-7 p.m. Call 476-5222.

Wed., May 15
Equal Employment, Affirmative Action & Asian Americans. Sponsored by Public Service Programs. Room 300, Health Sciences West, enter through 513 Parnassus. Noon.

Thurs., May 16
Asian Pacific Cultural Festival. Sponsored by EMPACT!. Millberry Gym, 500 Parnassus. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Fri., May 17
Asian Pacific Cultural Festival. Mission Center Building, 1855 Folsom. Noon.

Filipino Cultural Festival. Millberry Gym, 500 Parnassus. Noon.

Community Health Education Series

Lectures sponsored by the UCSF/Mount Zion Center on Aging. Held on Saturdays at the Laurel Heights Conf. Center, 3333 California. 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Call 750-5342 to register.

May 11
Healthy Aging: Take Charge!

June 8
Breast Health for Older Women.

Outdoors Unlimited

Outdoors Unlimited is a cooperative resource center for outdoor recreation and adventure. OU Center, 530 Parnassus. Call 476-2078.

Tues., April 2

Summer Day Camp Registration. Register your children 6-14 years old for traveling day camps. Kids travel to Bay Area sites for guided explorations, hands-on tours, outdoor adventure, fun and games. Two-week sessions run June 17 through August 30. Call 476-1469.

Mon., June 17-Mon., June 24
OU Summer Equipment Sale. 40-60% off local retail. OU Center, 530 Parnassus.

Campus Tours

All tours are free and begin at 1 p.m. on the first Friday of each month. Meet in the Moffitt/Long Hospital lobby, 505 Parnassus. Sponsored by Public Service Programs. Call 476-4394.

Mount Zion Community Meetings

Meetings to keep the community apprised of activities of interest and to listen to neighborhood concerns. Next meeting: **Tues., April 16.** Executive Board Room, 2nd floor, UCSF/Mount Zion, 1600 Divisadero. 7 p.m. Call 476-3206.

Senior Lecture Series

UCSF and San Francisco Medical Groups and Health Net Seniority Plus present the following free lectures on Mondays from 10-11:30 a.m. Call 476-0373.

April 8
Home & Community Injury Prevention. Room 455, Ambulatory Care Center, 400 Parnassus.

May 13
Memory & Aging. Lakeside Presbyterian Church, 19th Ave. & Eucalyptus.

June 10
Keeping Your Heart Healthy. Herbst Hall, UCSF/Mount Zion, 1600 Divisadero.

Brown Bag Lectures

Free lectures held weekly at noon on Wednesdays in Room 300, Health Sciences West, enter through 513 Parnassus (P); monthly on Thursdays in Rm. 125, UCSF/Mission Center Building (MCB), 1855 Folsom St.; and monthly on Tuesdays in Herbst Hall, UCSF/Mount Zion (MZ), 1600 Divisadero. Sponsored by Public Service Programs. Call 476-4394 for lectures in May and June.

April 3
Emerging & Re-emerging Infections: Ebola to Drug-Resistant Pneumonia. (P)

April 10
Does the Brain Hear Like It Sees? (P)

April 16
Advanced Directives: Who Makes Decisions When You Can't? (MZ)

April 17
Allergies in Everyday Living. (P)

April 18
Image Excellence As It Relates to Your Lifestyle. Learn to project your own style through clothing and accessories. (MCB)

April 24
Shining the Light: Lasers & Dentistry. (P)

Aim for Wellness

Health education programs for smoking cessation, asthma control, weight management for the obese and more. Sponsored by UCSF and San Francisco Medical Groups and Health Net. Call 476-0373 for locations. Call 476-1115 to register. (Prices: Health Net members/general public.)

Thursdays, April 11-June 27
Lighten Up Weight Management. Develop healthy lifestyle habits for a sensible approach to weight management. Free/$180. 6-8 p.m. Call 476-9987 for location.

Thurs., April 25 & Wed., May 1
Joint Care Workshops. Learn from UCSF physical therapists how to prevent injury. Back Care: April 25. Knee Care: May 1. Free/$20. Millberry Conf. Center, 500 Parnassus. 6-7:30 p.m.

Wed., June 12
Stress Management for Busy People. Free/$34. 6-8 p.m

Breast Cancer Screening

Women can have low-cost mammograms — X-rays to screen for breast cancer — from a mobile van that travels to convenient Bay Area locations. The procedure takes approximately 20 minutes and costs $65. Your physician's approval is required, plus his/her full name, address & telephone number to assure results are mailed promptly. Appointments must be made at least one month to six weeks in advance. Find out when the van will be in your neighborhood by calling 476-2193 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. A $65 mammography screening also is available at the UCSF/Mount Zion Medical Center Radiology Department. Call 885-7465.

LRDP Community Meetings

UCSF invites the community to discuss its Draft Long Range Development Plan (LRDP). All meetings begin at 7 p.m. Call 476-3206 to confirm meeting dates or for more information.

Tues., April 9
County Fair Building, Golden Gate Park near 9th Ave. & Lincoln.

Thurs., April 11
Brisbane Community Center, 250 Visitacion at Mendocino, Brisbane.

Tues., April 23
Japanese Community Center, 1840 Sutter at Buchanan.

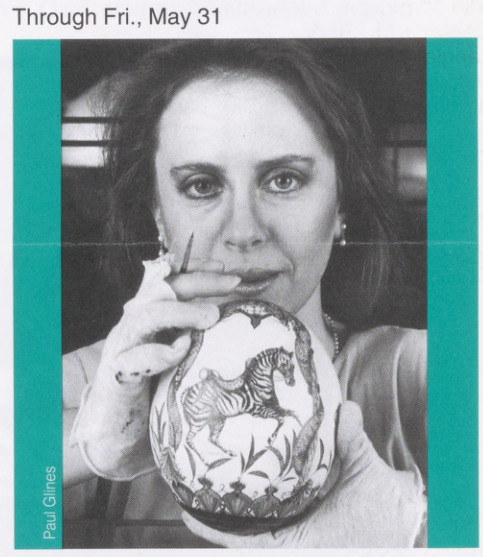
Tues., April 30
Mission Language & Vocational School, 2929 19th St. (enter Alabama St.).

Tues., May 7
ILWU Hall, 4 Berry St. near Embarcadero.

Tues., May 14
Bay Farm School, 200 Aughinbaugh Way at Bridgeway, Bay Farm Island, Alameda

Art Exhibits

Through Fri., May 31


Paul Glines

Born of Love & Passion. Display of Susan Tibbon's unique eggs and paintings. Faculty/Alumni House, 745 Parnassus. Open weekdays or by appointment. Call 476-4723.

Hospitals Auxiliary Art Exhibit. On display in Moffitt/Long Hospitals lobby, 505 Parnassus, through April will be watercolors and oils by Susan Barnes. A portion of all proceeds benefits patients at the UCSF Medical Center. To purchase or reserve work, call 476-4906.

Institute of Healing Arts & Sciences

Call 330-5353 for a complete schedule of April, May and June talks.

Mon., April 15 or Wed., April 17
Introduction to Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction and Well-Being Program. April 15: Noon-1 p.m. April 17: 6:30-8 p.m. Call 441-3731 for locations and details.

AIDS Programs

The UCSF AIDS Health Project (AHP) offers a variety of free support groups for residents of San Francisco, including groups for people with AIDS, who are asymptomatic HIV+, HIV+ African-American heterosexual men, HIV- with AIDS-related concerns and caregivers. Drop-in groups, monthly disability workshops, social events for HIV+ and HIV- people and meditation and self-help groups also are offered. The Project also provides free individual risk assessments & referrals. For more information, an intake interview for a particular group or an appointment for a risk assessment, visit the AHP at its new location, 400 Castro St., or call 476-3902.

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Cole Hall Cinema

The spring 1996 schedule includes "Waiting to Exhale," "12 Monkeys," "Toy Story" and "Sense and Sensibility." Prices run $2 to $3.50. Sponsored by Millberry Arts & Performances. Cole Hall, 513 Parnassus. Call 476-2542 for schedule. (Movies subject to change.)

Great Expectations for Women's Health

The UCSF Birth Center offers classes & video presentations for expectant parents on Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m., in Rm. 326, Ambulatory Care Center, 400 Parnassus. Call 476-6667 for a schedule of classes and for information about Mothers of Twins Club.

Sat., May 11
Journey Into Motherhood: Writing Your Way to Self-Discovery. Millberry Conf. Center. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 476-6667 to register.

Volunteer Orientation

Program to acquaint prospective volunteers with opportunities available in the Medical Center at UCSF. Meetings take place at Langley Porter Psychiatric Institute Auditorium, 401 Parnassus, and at UCSF/Mount Zion in Herbst Hall, 1600 Divisadero. For dates and times of Parnassus orientations call 476-1196. Call 885-7353 for UCSF/Mount Zion schedule.

Ongoing Meetings & Hotlines

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group: Facilitated by a social worker, this group is for those caring for someone with Alzheimer's or a related dementia. Meets the first Saturday of the month. Co-sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association. 10:30 a.m.-noon. UCSF/Mount Zion Center on Aging Alzheimer's Day Care Center, 3600 Geary Blvd. Call 800-660-1993.

AWAKE: AWAKE (alert, well and keeping energetic) is a support and education group for people with sleep apnea and their families. Meets the third Thursday of each month and features guest speakers on topics relating to sleep apnea, followed by time for socializing and support. Bring your CPAP equipment to have it checked by a homecare specialist. Sponsored by UCSF/Mount Zion Sleep Disorders Center. Call 885-7886.

Cancer Programs/Support Groups: UCSF/Mount Zion Cancer Center offers free cancer programs and support groups, including dance therapy, exercise and nutrition classes, plus support groups for cancer patients and their families and friends, breast and head and neck cancer patients. Call 885-3693 for reservations.

Cancer Referral Hotline: The UCSF Cancer Referral Service enables cancer patients to place just one telephone call and learn the names of UCSF doctors specializing in the kind of treatment they need. Call 800-888-8664.

Look Good, Feel Better: Expert advice on makeup, wigs and the use of turbans provided for people who have undergone chemotherapy or radiation. Held every other month in 11 Long Solarium, Long Hospital, 505 Parnassus, and at UCSF/Mount Zion, 1600 Divisadero. Co-sponsored by the American Cancer Society and supported by the Donna Smith Fund. Call 476-1383 to pre-register for Parnassus meetings, 885-3693 for UCSF/Mount Zion meetings.

UCSF
University of California San Francisco
Public Affairs
3333 California Street, Suite 103
San Francisco, CA 94143-0462

New treatments mean urinary incontinence can be cured or controlled.

Before, she was embarrassed.

But now she is determined. Just nine months ago, traveling long distances was troublesome for Ann Pearce. Sometimes the simple act of standing up brought on the urge to go to the bathroom. Sneezing, laughing or lifting also were risky. She worried whenever she was around people, and an extra change of clothing always was stored nearby.

Ann, a 65-year-old San Franciscan, suffers from urinary incontinence, a common disorder, especially among older women. But she is well on her way to conquering the problem, and, as she gains command of her pelvic muscles and bladder, she is back in control of her life.

Urinary incontinence is estimated to affect up to 40 percent of women, making it more prevalent than most chronic illnesses. Women also are twice as likely as men to have the condition. Still, many do not discuss the problem, even with their doctors, and rely on absorbent pads. Ann, for example, says she was too embarrassed to seek medical attention until a more serious, but related, problem forced her to do so last fall.

"Too many women think that loss of bladder control is something they have to put up with as they grow older, but this is not true," says Jeanette Brown, MD, an obstetrician/gynecologist and director of the UCSF/Mount Zion Women's Continence Center. "New treatments and high success rates mean the problem can be cured or controlled, and no one needs to suffer in silence."

Often incontinence in women is the result of years of normal wear and tear on the pelvic floor muscle, especially, as in Ann's case, if she has given birth to four children. The muscle, which stretches from the pubic bone in the front to the base of the spine in the back, also supports the bladder, uterus and rectum. "Stress" incontinence — when urine is released during exercising or sneezing — is the most common sign that the pelvic floor is losing ground. Ann began experiencing a second symptom last summer — when upright, she could feel things dropping. Both floor and uterus eventually collapsed.

Ann came to UCSF fully expecting surgery, but so far that has not been necessary. Now under Dr. Brown's care, Ann is using a device called a pessary, shaped and worn like a diaphragm, to keep her uterus in place and to take the pressure off the pelvic floor. A topical estrogen also is used to pump hormonal power back into her muscles. In the meantime, she visits the Women's Continence Center where she is learning pelvic exercises aimed at strengthening the muscles that control opening and closing the bladder.

The UCSF/Mount Zion Center is the most comprehensive program in the San Francisco Bay Area for treating women with bladder problems, including extensive evaluation, the latest in diagnostic equipment, and several treatment options — from pelvic exercises to modifying diet — for patients with different types of incontinence.

Treatment is geared to the individual, says center nurse practitioner Janis Luft. For severe cases, standard approaches such as medications and surgery are also available.

Ann Pearce, who describes herself as "active and always on the go," is working hard to stay in control. She does her pelvic exercises three times a day. She just completed a computer class, and the semi-retired grandmother of two is ready to go back to part-time work. Just two months ago, she could not walk too far without feeling discomfort. Now, she is back to her afternoon exercise routine — a nearly three-mile stroll along the beach. And the only water she thinks about is the ocean.

— Andy Evangelista

For more information, call the UCSF/Mount Zion Women's Continence Center at (415) 885-7710.

Tom Wachs

To Our Neighbors
April/May/June 1996

UCSF announces long-range plan

Computer games overcome language-learning problems

Dentists underreporting cases of child abuse

UCSF
University of California San Francisco
3333 California Street, Suite 103, San Francisco, CA 94143-0462

To Our Neighbors

Few dentists identify or report child abuse

Since some 50 to 65 percent of abused children suffer injuries to the head and neck, dentists are in an ideal position to identify cases of child abuse. Yet a new survey by UCSF researcher Francisco Ramos-Gomez reveals a surprisingly low level of awareness of child abuse among California dentists, with few saying they have ever seen or reported suspected abuse, despite a law requiring them to notify authorities in such cases.

"I think the most shocking results were the low reporting rates. Sixteen percent of the surveyed dentists said they suspected child abuse, but only six percent of those reported it," says Ramos-Gomez, DDS, assistant professor of dentistry and the director of pediatric dental services at SFGH.

The study was commissioned by PANDA (Prevent Abuse and Neglect through Dental Awareness), a public/private coalition organized by Delta Dental Plan of California to educate dental professionals on child abuse.

Child abuse is a significant public health problem, with 650,000 cases reported in 1993 in California alone, according to PANDA coalition figures.

Frequently these children suffer head and neck injuries, such as bruises, bites, burns, cuts on the lip and tongue, fractured jaws and displaced teeth, Ramos-Gomez says. The first place they are likely to seek medical attention is a dentist's office or a hospital-based dental emergency clinic, where they are treated by oral surgeons or pediatric dentists.

New brain treatment saves lives without surgery

A new advance in the prevention and treatment of strokes that result from ruptured blood vessels in the brain has been tested intensively with good results by a group of UCSF physicians.

The UCSF team, practicing a specialty called interventional neuroradiology, is playing a leading role in demonstrating the value of non-surgical methods that can be used to repair a brain aneurysm — a distended sac that forms on a blood vessel in the brain, causing the vessel to deviate from its normal cylindrical form and become thin, weak and susceptible to rupture.

Using a new non-surgical technique, the physicians fill an aneurysm with tiny metal coils, recently approved for use by the Food and Drug Administration.

"Each year, about 30,000 Americans experience a ruptured brain aneurysm," according to Van Halbach, MD, professor of neurosurgery and radiology at UCSF. "About 30 percent die before they even reach the emergency room. Of the people who do reach the ER, another 20 percent or so will die from complications related to the aneurysm, mainly vasospasm and re-bleeding. Only about one-fifth survive a ruptured aneurysm without significant impairment."

The UCSF physicians, including Halbach, Grant Hieshima, MD, Christopher Dowd, MD, and Randall Higashida, MD, all with joint appointments in neurosurgery and radiology, have completed more than 450 non-surgical procedures to repair aneurysms, more than any other group in North America.

Aging, muscle function study

Doctors at the Department of Radiology are looking for healthy, non-smoking sedentary men and women to participate in ongoing studies of muscle function and fatigue. Volunteers must be between the ages of 65 and 85 and be free from heart disease, high blood pressure and diabetes. Researchers will be obtaining measures of muscle function during rest and exercise. Studies will take place at the UCSF- affliliated VAMC and volunteers will be compensated for their time. For more information, call Peter Allen at 750-2158.

Chronic pain study

The UCSF Pain Clinical Research Center is conducting research studies on chronic neuropathic pain and is looking for participants to join its research studies. The center is studying chronic pain syndromes — caused by damage to the nervous system — from common injuries and illnesses like diabetes, neuralgia, multiple sclerosis, post-mastectomy surgery or shingles. Participants must be over 18, in stable physical and mental health and be able to read English. For more information, call 476-0418.

Postmenopausal hair loss

The UCSF Hair Research Center is looking for postmenopausal women under the age of 55 who have androgenetic alopecia (inherited thinning of the hair) for a year-long study to evaluate a new hair growth promoting product. Participants will need to make nine visits. For more information, call Monday through Wednesday, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., 476-2572 or 476-3638.